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24 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Review of Requirements

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1. In considering timely specific requirements proposals which require political approval and which are discussed below, the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee has reaffirmed that it believes it to be of utmost importance that every effort be made to obtain political permission for broad authority to pursue the requirements set forth in our recommendations of 9 October 1957, [] (see Tab A). In that connection, I quote paragraph 5:

"5. In the event that political authorities will permit some activity but less than the total of the program outlined in this paper, it is recommended that permission be sought at least to cover the targets relevant to an appraisal of the Soviet long range heavy bomber program (Category B on Attachment A). In the event that permission can only be granted for limited geographic coverage, then it is recommended that permission be obtained for covering the Urals, which includes VERKHNE NEYVINSKI, KYSHTYM, NIZHNYAYA TURA, SARATOV/ENGELS, KUYBYSHEV, and KAZAN. (The Navy believes that this area should be subordinated to MOLOTOVSK and SEVEROMORSK.)"

2. Developments since the launching of Sputnik strongly suggest that probable vital intelligence may be secured by the recovery of TYURA TAM, a target not included in our broad program proposed on 9 October 1957. At Tab B is an argument for such coverage in early November at which time it is anticipated the Russians will cause an event to occur or make announcements bearing on further advances in space satellite or missile development. It is the view of the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee that if operationally feasible coverage of TYURA TAM should include both photographic and System Four configurations. An explanation of the benefits in the latter case are indicated at Tab C.

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3. Since the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee views stated in the quotation above in paragraph 1, SEVEROMORSK has been covered. Attention is now called to the fact that the quality of film on SEVEROMORSK has sustained our assumption that it would be high enough to discern critical characteristics though admittedly a categoric statement on this awaits further exploitation. We do believe, however, that critical factors relevant to MOLOTOVSK would be revealed by coverage in the time remaining in [redacted] (4 or 5 November 1957).

Therefore, if MOLOTOVSK is to be covered this season, that mission must be accomplished in the very near future. Whether or not political permission currently exists for MOLOTOVSK, we are unaware.

[redacted]
JAMES Q. REBER
Chairman
Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

Attachments

Tab A
Tab B
Tab C

JQR:cw

(are dist)

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